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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/564,456	01/12/2006	Susanne Piontek	PAT-00386	8976
77224	7590	12/24/2008	EXAMINER	
Mary E. Golota			ABU ALL SHUANGYI	
Cantor Colburn LLP				
201 W. Big Beaver Road			ART UNIT	
Suite 1101			PAPER NUMBER	
Troy, MI 48084			1793	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	
			DELIVERY MODE	
			12/24/2008	
			ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/564,456

Applicant(s)

PIONTEK ET AL.

Examiner

SHUANGYI ABU ALI

Art Unit

1793

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 October 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 9-15 and 23-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13-15 and 23-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 9-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/08/2008 has been entered.

It is noted that claims 1-6 and 9-12 are product-by-process claims. Even though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." In re Thorpe, 77F.2d 695, 698,227 USPQ 964,966 (Fed. Cir. 1985) (citations omitted).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,234,466 to Takahashi et al.

Regarding claims 1 and 12, Takahashi et al. disclose a solid pigment composition comprising polymer such as polyester and titanium oxide dispersed therein. Takahashi et al. disclose that the composition comprising 60% of titanium oxide, 40% of polyester(example 2).

Regarding claim 2, Takahashi et al. disclose the composition is in powder form (example 1 and 2)

Regarding claim 3, Takahashi et al. disclose that the composition is in an organic solvent solution. (Example 2)

Regarding claim 4, Takahashi et al. disclose inorganic or organic pigments can be used in the composition (col. 3, line 56- col. 4, line 15).

Regarding claim 5 and 6, Takahashi et al. disclose polyester used in the composition (example 2)

Regarding claim 9, Takahashi et al. disclose that the composition comprising polyester and titanium oxide is in a solvent mixture. The composition amount in the solvent mixture is about 50% (example 2).

Regarding claims 10-11, Takahashi et al. disclose that additives such as antioxidant and flow control agent can used in the composition (col. 4, lines 36-43)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,168,895 to Metz et al.

Regarding claims 1 and 12, Metz et al. disclose a composition comprising polymer binder such as polyester and pigment. The pigment amount is in the range of 0.01-50%.(col. 16, line 26-50)

The references differ from Applicant's recitations of claims by not disclosing identical ranges. However, the reference discloses "overlapping" ranges, and overlapping ranges have been held to establish prima facie obviousness (MPEP 2144.05).

Regarding claim 2, Metz et al. disclose that the composition is in powder form (abstract).

Regarding claim 3, Metz et al. disclose the pigment can be added in the resin in organic solvent (col. 16, line 36).

Regarding claim 4, Metz et al. disclose that the composition is azo organic pigment(abstract).

Regarding claims 5 and 6, Metz et al. disclose that polyester is used as polymer binder (table 1).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/08/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding Takahashi et al., applicant argues that instant application has a higher gloss than that of the prior art. The Examiner respectfully submits that the examples that applicant used to show the difference are not based on the prior art of record. Furthermore, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., gloss) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181,26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). With respect to the product by process argument, applicant has not fully demonstrated clear differences in the claimed product when compared to the products of the references.

Regarding Metz et al., applicant argues the prior art fails to disclose that the amount of the pigment used in the composition is in the range of 50-80%. The Examiner respectfully submits that Metz et al. disclose that the amount of the pigment is in the range of 0.01-50%. (col. 16, line 26-50).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHUANGYI ABU ALI whose telephone number is (571)272-6453. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo can be reached on 571-272-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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